

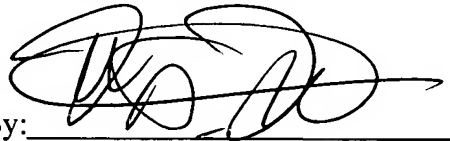
REMARKS

In the Notice of Allowance mailed on SEPTEMBER 10, 2004 claims 1-16 were allowed. The Applicants thank the Examiner for positive consideration of the claims.

However, the Notice of Allowance also provided numerous reasons for allowing claims 1-16. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Reasons For Allowance set forth in the Notice of Allowance.

Regarding the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the specific reasons for allowance set forth by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowance mailed on SEPTEMBER 10, 2004, and respectfully assert that the allowability of the claims is instead based upon the features of the claims and the totality of the record.

Respectfully submitted,



By: _____

Fredrick T. French III
Reg. No. 52,524

Dated: October 1, 2004

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street - Ste. 3400
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 775-8000